

ARKANSAS PLC AT WORK™ PROJECT TALKING POINTS AND FAQ

TALKING POINTS

- The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and Solution Tree have established a partnership to develop and expand the Professional Learning Community at Work™ process within select schools. These sites will serve as working laboratory schools for the PLC at Work process, conducting action research and sharing best practices with other schools throughout the state.
- PLC at Work schools are distinguished by the process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLC at Work operates under the belief that the key to improved learning for students is continuous job-embedded learning for educators.
- The PLC at Work process emphasizes a focus on learning for all, within a collaborative culture, using collective inquiry into best practice and current reality. Through action orientation and a commitment to continuous improvement, schools and districts yield positive results.
- The project will span a period up to five years, providing intensive training and support for a growing number of schools each year. Participating schools will be part of a collaborative evaluation process that gathers data regarding student achievement, teacher practices, and effective professional development.
- Selected schools will be matched with a certified PLC at Work associate from Solution Tree and receive intensive on-site support as they implement, deepen, and sustain the PLC at Work process. Each school will create action plans that focus on increasing student achievement through aligned curriculum, formative assessment practices, and proven instructional strategies. The plans will be collaboratively developed, based on a thorough needs assessment at the beginning of the program.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the goal of the project?

The Arkansas Department of Education is transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education so that every Arkansas student graduates prepared for college, career, and community engagement. In partnership with Solution Tree, a leading provider in education professional development, ADE began the PLC at Work project, which provides support to selected schools over a three-year period. When the PLC at Work process is implemented with fidelity, schools experience dramatic improvement in learning results by both students and adults. The schools will serve as working laboratories for the PLC at Work process, conducting action research and sharing best practices with other schools throughout the state.

The PLC at Work process focuses on three big ideas that drive work inside each school:

1. The purpose of our school is to ensure **all** students learn at high levels.
2. Helping all students learn requires a **collaborative** and **collective effort**.
3. To assess our effectiveness in helping all students learn, we must **focus on results**—evidence of student learning—and use results to inform and improve our professional practice and respond to students who need intervention or enrichment.

Which schools are participating in the project?

The PLC project is currently comprised of two cohorts: Cohort One schools began implementing PLCs in the 2017-18 school year; Cohort Two schools will begin implementation during the 2018-19 school year.

List of Cohort One schools	List of Cohort Two schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballman Elementary School, Fort Smith School District • Bragg Elementary School, West Memphis School District • Douglas MacArthur Junior High School, Jonesboro School District • Eastside Elementary School, Greenbrier School District • Frank Mitchell Intermediate School, Vilonia School District • Joe T. Robinson Middle School, Pulaski County Special School District • Monticello Middle School, Monticello School District • Morrilton Intermediate School, South Conway County School District • Premier High School of Little Rock • Prescott School District • Rogers High School, Rogers School District • Spradling Elementary School, Fort Smith School District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blytheville Primary School, Blytheville School District • East Pointe Elementary School, Greenwood School District • Greer Lingle Middle School, Rogers School District • Gurdon School District • Hamburg High School, Hamburg School District • Howard Perrin Elementary School, Benton School District • Murrell Taylor Elementary School, Jacksonville North Pulaski School District • Oaklawn Visual and Performing Arts Magnet, Hot Springs School District • Quitman School District • Rivercrest Elementary School, Rivercrest School District

How were schools selected?

The schools were selected through a rigorous application and evaluation process. A panel of educational professionals knowledgeable of the PLC at Work process reviewed the applications and used the application scores to select the schools, which are representative of all five regions of the state.

What will the schools receive through the project?

Selected schools will receive up to 50 days of onsite professional development provided by trained and certified PLC at Work associates. These days will include a combination of training, observations, coaching, and other job-embedded staff development. Training will consist of an overview of the PLC at Work process, leadership coaching for the school's Guiding Coalition, and instruction on assessment, interventions, and subject-matter content.

In addition, schools will receive print and video resources that further support implementation, and school representatives will attend an annual conference where they will share promising practices and strategies.

Each cohort is part of the PLC project for three years. During the first year, schools learn to implement the PLC at Work process; during the second year, schools learn to deepen the work they've developed; and during the third year, schools learn to sustain the process.

Why was PLC at Work selected to help fulfill ADE's vision of leading the nation in a student-focused education?

The ADE, in partnership with the Arkansas legislature, is committed to fulfilling their vision to lead the nation in student-focused education. Arkansas adopted legislation focused on providing schools with an opportunity to receive researched based, on-site, in-depth training to deeply implement transformative Professional Learning Communities at Work.

How will success of the project be measured?

PLC at Work includes both educational inquiry and action research. To ensure progress, both in process and in student achievement, data will be collected, analyzed and used to make decisions. Selected schools will be given a Needs Assessment to examine process and achievement data. Formative assessments will be given throughout the year to evaluate growth and determine next steps. Additional data, as it relates to the unique needs of each individual school, will also be determined and monitored.

[Education Northwest](#), a national research organization, will conduct an independent research study by collecting and interpreting meaningful data which will provide an objective evaluation of the project. The organization provides high-quality research, technical assistance, and evaluation services across the country.

Where can I go to learn more about PLC at Work?

[AllthingsPLC.info](#) is the authoritative source for information about PLC at Work. The site is designed exclusively for those who are committed to improving student learning and want to learn more about the process.

Visit our ADE PLC webpage for more information on the project and our cohort schools at [Professional Learning Communities in Arkansas](#).